



LARC



Volume 59, Number 12

ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC., INC. - a 501(c)3 Corporation

December 2019

Thank you to the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association from the Tour du Teche – 2019

From Gustave (Tave) Lamperez Tour du Teche Race Director dated 11/08/2019

Larry and Sandy Leblanc,

The Tour du Teche held its 10th event this year, 2019. As the new Race Director of this wonderful event, I want to thank the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association for your many years of service to our event.

I have run many races over my 40 plus years of participating in canoe and kayak races. I have seen when a race does not have the expertise in communication to make sure that all racers are located and safe, your team makes difference. Thank you for your help and experience we really depend on your team to keep our racers and volunteers safe. Your support at our checkpoints is indispensable, your help ensures the high quality event we host every year.

Please share our appreciation with all of your members.

Gustave (Tave) Lamperez
Tour du Teche Race Director



There will not be a club meeting on December 5, 2019 due to our annual Christmas Dinner on December 12, 2019 at 6:00PM at the Golden Coral, located at 3110 Ambassador Caffery. There will also be no VE Testing in December.

*The LARC is published monthly
By the
Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174*

DATES TO REMEMBER

GENERAL MEETING

January 2, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

Lafayette Science Museum

433 Jefferson Street

Lafayette, LA

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/>

Local 2-Meter Nets

Monday

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM

146.820 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Tuesday

Region 4 SkyWarn Net 7:00 PM

145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Wednesday

Silent Key Memorial Net 6:30 PM

146.820 No PL New Iberia, LA

AARA OFFICERS 2018 - 2019

President – Chris Ancelet N5MCY
cancelet@gmail.com

V. Pres. - Derek Meche WM5TS

Secr – David McCutcheon KG5JHR

Treasurer - Tom Dischler W5OHJ

BOARD MEMBERS

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP

Steve Webre AF5VR

Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF

YOUTH MEMBER

Patrick Taylor – KG5YFR

QSL MANAGER

Chris Ancelet – N5MCY

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November 2019



VE Test Session

7 November 2019

*It was another great night. We had 4 come in without a ticket & 4 go out with a Tech license. One came in a Tech & out a General, hence a great night. Those earning a Tech were: Valerie K. Taylor ~ **KI5HFE**~ of Kaplan along with her son Nicholas J. Perry ~**KI5HFF**~ also of Kaplan. Two others were: Jason M. Doucet ~**KI5HFD**~ of New Iberia & Zachary L. Carroway ~**KI5HFC**~ of Ville Platte. The gentleman upgrading to General was Lester J. Zaunbrecher ~**KI5GIZ**~ of Arnaudville.*

*The VEs involved were: Greg ~ **K5LFT**, Michael ~ **KI5ARX** & Tom ~ **W5OHJ**.*

Great big TNX to the VEs & Congratulations to the new hams & the Upgrader !!!!!

73, de Greg ~ K5LFT



Silent Key - Larry Leblanc KE5KJD

Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD became a Silent Key on November 13, 2019 after suffering a major stroke. His service to the Tour du Teche canoe races, to ham radio in general, and to the AARA club will be greatly missed.

He started out in radio in 1970 as a Novice with call WN5GHC, operating on mainly CW with a homemade multiband vertical in Richardson, Texas. He had been operating in his hometown of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana as KE5KJD on various bands. Larry loved to try experimentation to help his own radio operation.

His beloved wife Sandy KE5KJF also operated radio with him and helped tremendously with the Tour du Teche races.

Technical Presentation Battery Technology *by Mike Cavell KI5ARX*

Mike Cavell KI5ARX gave an excellent presentation on battery technology. He provided a very good layman's level explanation of many considerations individuals should address when selecting battery systems. The many considerations discussed include, but were not limited to, the following:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Watt hours per volume | Watt hours per weight |
| Cost per watt hour | Useable watt hours (battery life) |
| Memory effects | Charge / discharge cycles |
| Voltage considerations | Charging considerations |
| Battery management systems | Solar charging systems |
| Failure mode considerations | DC / DC converters |
| Form factors | Handling safety |

An audio recording of his presentation and the slides he used during the presentation have been uploaded to the club website at www.w5ddl.org.

They are listed on the "ARTICLES OF INTEREST" page.

Audio recording of presentation: [Audio recording mp3](#)

Slideshow presentation: [Slideshow presentation](#)

More Than 1 Million Contacts Logged During 2019 ARRL Field Day

ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, reports that nearly 1.1 million contacts were made during the 2019 ARRL Field Day -- the most popular operating event in North America. Bourque reported the 2019 ARRL Field Day results, which are available starting on page 64 of the digital edition of the December 2019 issue of QST. Bourque says in his article that more than 36,000 radio amateurs took part in 2019 Field Day across all 83 ARRL/Radio Amateurs of Canada Sections, up slightly from the 35,250 reported last year. The total number of contacts was down by about 7% from 2018's 1.18 million contacts.

"This year, 3,113 entries were received from local clubs and emergency operations centers (EOCs), as well as individual portable, mobile, and home stations," Bourque wrote in QST. Most entries were in Class A -- club or non-club groups of three or more.

Of the nearly 1.1 million contacts, approximately 46% were made on phone, and 456,000 (42%) of contacts were made on CW. The remaining 138,000+ (12%) of the contacts were made on digital modes, such as FT8 and RTTY.

"This is a substantial increase compared to 2018, when total QSOs on the digital modes numbered just over 56,000," Bourque reported. "With the late 2018 release of WSJT-X (which now supports Field Day exchanges), many participants made use of FT8's ability to communicate when band conditions weren't being cooperative."

Top 10 scores ranged between W3AO's Class 14A entry from Maryland-DC, with 32,356 points, to W1NVT's 14,876-point Class 2A entry from Vermont.

Bourque said that 95% of the 3,113 entries received came through the Field Day web applet. "Not only is ARRL Field Day an opportunity to sharpen operating skills in temporary and portable locations, it's also an occasion to showcase amateur radio to the local community," Bourque wrote.

ARRL Field Day 2020 will take place June 27 - 28.

WSJT-X Development Group Announces Second Bug-Fix Release, WSJT-X Version 2.1.2

ARRL.org 11/26/2019

The WSJT Development Group, which just this week announced the release of WSJT-X version 2.1.1, has now issued a second bug-fix release, version 2.1.2. WSJT-X is the free software suite that includes the FT4 and FT8 protocols. According to the developers, an error in the code broke the WSJT-X rig control features for certain Icom radios. The [Release Notes](#) detail program changes made since WSJT-X 2.1.0. The WSJT-X 2.1 User Guide has also been updated. Upgrading from earlier versions of WSJT-X should be seamless, with no need to uninstall previous versions or move any files.

To installation packages for Windows, Linux, and Macintosh are available. WSJT-X is licensed under the terms of Version 3 of the GNU General Public License (GPL). Development of this software is a cooperative project to which many amateur radio operators have contributed. The WSJT Development Group asks those using the code to let the developers know, as well as to report bugs or suggest improvements to the code.

France Gives its Highest Honor to *The Secret Wireless War* Author Geoffrey Pidgeon

From ARRL.org Newsletter 7 November 2019

The author of *The Secret Wireless War*, Geoffrey Pidgeon, recently became the 6,000th veteran to receive the French Legion of Honor (Legion d'Honneur). Through his undercover work in British intelligence, Pidgeon, now 93, played a pivotal role in the D-Day landings. His book, which recounts the important role of the Communications Division of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) during World War II, has long been a favorite among hams.

"There never was, in the whole history of wireless, a bigger role for the amateur wireless enthusiast," says Pidgeon. "This is an extraordinary story that includes hams among those patriots that undoubtedly helped the Allied war effort."

Pidgeon said he was "somewhat overwhelmed" by the turnout for the award presentation by French Ambassador to the UK Catherine Colonna. UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace also attended. The event attracted news media as well. Reports included one from Forces TV. Pidgeon also was interviewed by London's *The Sunday Times*.

"They made a fuss of me today," Pidgeon told Forces TV.

The Secret Wireless War offers a history of the SIS, its growing use of wireless in the 1930s, its involvement in the dissemination by wireless of Enigma (Ultra) intelligence, and a whole range of secret uses of wireless as part of the successful prosecution of the war.

The book documents the personal tales of those who were part of this most secret of units, and events that helped to win the war: Secret agents abroad, wireless operators handling Ultra and agents' traffic, wireless engineers, interceptors, and administrators; the story of Churchill's personal wireless operator; a fleet of 70+ Packard motor cars and converted Dodge ambulances used as mobile wireless stations; and hams listening to the German secret service and the Gestapo.

Pidgeon's memoir of his days in MI6 Communications during World War II is distributed in the US by ARRL.

W1AW to Commemorate 98th Anniversary of First Amateur Radio Signals to Span the Atlantic

December 11 marks the 98th anniversary of the success of ARRL's Transatlantic Tests in 1921, organized to see if low-power amateur radio stations could be heard across the Atlantic using shortwave frequencies (i.e., above 200 meters). On that day, a message transmitted by a group of Radio Club of America members at 1BCG in Greenwich, Connecticut, was copied by Paul Godley, 2ZE, in Scotland.

While the first two-way contact would not take place until 1923, the 1921 transatlantic success marked the beginning of what would become routine communication between US radio amateurs and those in other parts of the world -- the birth of DX.

To commemorate this amateur radio milestone, Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be on the air through the day on December 11 with volunteer operators. The goal is to encourage contacts between radio amateurs in the US and Europe while showcasing the significance of the transmissions that pioneered global communication and laid the groundwork for technology widely used today.

The event will run from 1300 until 0000 UTC. Some details are still being worked out, but operation will focus on 40 and 20 meters (SSB).

Contact Clark Burgard, N1BCG, for more information.

Local 2-Meter Nets

MONDAY

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM
146.820 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

WEDNESDAY

Silent Key Memorial Net 6:30 PM
146.820 No PL New Iberia, LA



TUESDAY

Region 4 Skywarn Net 7:00 PM
145.370 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net

Net Controllers will rotate each week and held on the 146.820 W5DDL Repeater only.

The 146/820 and 443.00 Repeaters located on the Chase Towers downtown Lafayette are down indefinitely due to roof repairs. The AARA Monday Night Net and the Silent Key Memorial Net is being held on the 147.040 repeater in Duson, LA until repairs are completed. The 145.410 in Lydia is back up, PL of 123.0.

The January 2020 schedule can be downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website. [Net Schedules](#)

REGION 4 SKYWARN NET

Each Tuesday night at 7:00 PM (local), the Region 4 Skywarn Net will take place on the 145.370 Skywarn Repeater in Lafayette, LA. Net Control Operators will alternate each week.

In case the 145.370 repeater fails, the net will be held on the 146.820 W5DDL repeater PL Tone 103.5.

The January 2020 schedule can be found at this link: [Net Schedules](#)

When using the Skywarn 145.370 repeater, be sure to use the receiver PL tone for your area as follows:

NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 - SW Quadrant 141.3 - SE Quadrant 94.8 - Central 103.5

See our website for additional information: <http://www.w5ddl.org/repeaters.htm>



| | | |
|-------|--------|---------|
| 12-08 | KG5PUL | Caine |
| 12-09 | NA5Q | Roland |
| 12-11 | KG5QWE | Raymond |
| 12-16 | K2JDM | Moe |
| 12-20 | KG5SSO | Barrett |
| 12-22 | KD5UPC | Gerard |
| 12-25 | KB7ARP | William |
| 12-28 | WB5QKH | Ron |
| 01-05 | W5AG | Archie |
| 01-06 | N5KNY | Paul |
| 01-12 | KI5ARR | Paul H. |

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing names to be missing from the list.

Don't forget to renew your membership by January 31st.

Taking Advantage of Coaxial Cable Capacitance

From ARRL.org Newletters 31 October 2019

Jeff Blaine, AC0C, had a bad capacitor in the 15-meter filter section of his 5B4AGN multiband band-pass filter, because as he puts it, "they have been treated terribly over the years." One way to damage a filter is to use power levels at the limit of the filter into a load that presents a high SWR -- especially a high duty cycle mode like RTTY. He didn't have the required small 14 pF capacitor, so he trimmed a piece of RG-58 to the required value - coaxial cable exhibits a certain amount of capacitance per unit length.

"The repaired 15-meter filter runs 1.10:1 or better SWR across the band with an insertion loss of about 0.65 dB," he reports. Blaine advises that the RG-58 "can be coiled up and secured with some tie wraps" and that it should be kept away from the toroid to minimize interaction -- a half-inch is probably sufficient. This approach may work well for other applications where a low-value capacitor is difficult to obtain and space is available.

Blaine uses an L/C meter to measure the capacitance as the piece of cable is trimmed to approach the target value, and he leaves the cable about a quarter of an inch, then trims the braid back to increase the distance between it and the center conductor. He puts shrink wrap over the end, and measures the passband of the filter section with the chassis cover in place. -- Thanks to the ARRL Contest Update



*Jeff, AC0C, used a small length of RG58 coaxial cable to replace a failed low-value capacitor in a bandpass filter.
[Jeff Blaine, AC0C, photo]*

The Ultimate Raspberry Pi? By Julian OH5STN

Julian has build an entire YouTube channel on the development of the Raspberry Pi fir use with Ham Radio in the field. With his blog, he has done an excellent series of articles from his trials and errors on building his Pi for a portable bugout kit for emergency operations.

You can see his entire series on his YouTube channel or follow his links to his blog. The videos and articles are informative and enjoyable. Be sure to see his latest at

[Ultimate Raspberry Pi Build](http://oh8stn.org/off-grid-raspberry-pi/). And read his series of articles at <http://oh8stn.org/off-grid-raspberry-pi/>

Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
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*Share the Fun ~
Bring a Friend
to be a HAM.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| AARA Christmas Party | December 12, 2019 | Golden Coral on Ambassador Caffery @6:00PM |
| Winter Field Day | January 25 | At Steve Webre's in Church Point |
| AARA Hamfest | March 13-14, 2020 | Rayne, LA |

For any additional information, check the W5DDL.org website

Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie

1 Chocolate pie crust 1 Cup peanut butter
1 8-oz package cream cheese – softened
1 1/4 Cup powdered sugar
1 8-oz package whipped topping – thawed

Beat peanut butter and cream cheese until smooth. Add powdered sugar and beat until smooth. Add in thawed whipped topping and beat until smooth, scrapping sides as needed..

Pour filling into crust, even out the top with spatula or knife. Chill at least one hour before serving.

This has become one of our favorites in my family. Ultra-rich. You may only want to offer small slivers – your guests will thank you.

NOTE: Although you can use the “LITE” version of the whipped topping, avoid the “No-fat” versions. The flavor is not the same.

FCC Information Service

Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur Radio license inquiries about new/ vanity call signs: 1-888-225-5322 This will connect you the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at: 202-414-1250 or:

ulscomm@fcc.gov.

FCC Website:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New call sign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/ VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlyec>

*The mailing address to the FCC is:
Federal Communications Commission,
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554*